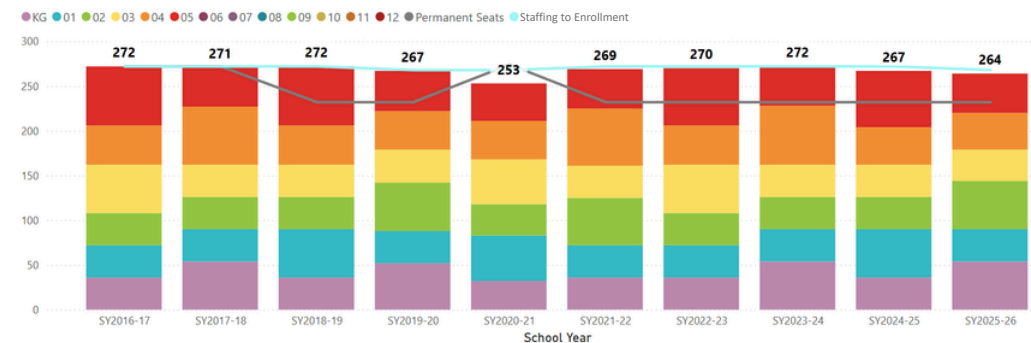


RECOMMENDATION: EXPAND TARPON SPRINGS FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO A FUNDAMENTAL K-8 ON THE CURRENT SUNSET HILLS SCHOOL CAMPUS.

This recommendation expands Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary to a fundamental K-8 school on the current Sunset Hills Elementary School campus beginning in the 2027-28 school year. Students currently enrolled in the K-5 fundamental program at Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary have the opportunity to continue in the fundamental program through 8th grade. All students who attend grade 5 at Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary School will be able to attend grade 6 at the Fundamental K-8 School beginning in 2027-28. The transition to a K-8 school will occur over three years, adding grade 6 in 2027-28, grade 7 in 2028-29, and grade 8 in 2029-30. The Tarpon Springs Fundamental K-8 School will be a District Application Program (DAP) with no zone, and the district's standard fundamental program admission priorities will apply. Annually, all students enrolled in grade 5 at the Tarpon Springs Fundamental K-8 School will be eligible to continue in grade 6 at the fundamental K-8 beginning in 2027-28. Additional seats may be available through the district's DAP process, which opens in January 2027 for the 2027-28 school year. If approved, the Tarpon Springs area will engage in a school-naming process for the two K-8 campuses.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND HISTORY

TABLE 1: TSFES SCHOOL CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT



Year Opened: 1980

Grades Served: PK-5

Site Utilization Impact:
Expected to decrease
district student stations
by 232.

Official 2025-26 Count Snapshot Data (Survey 2), FISH and Program Capacity

Tables demonstrate student enrollment in bar charts, total permanent building capacity (student stations) in the grey line graph, and staffing for the student population and programs in the teal line.

TABLE 2: PROJECTED CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT

	2026-27 ENROLLMENT*	PERMANENT CAPACITY	UTILIZATION	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT	PROJECTED UTILIZATION
Tarpon Springs Fund. ES	261	232	113%		
Tarpon Springs Fund. K-8		546		TBD	TBD

*2026-27 Enrollment as of the 10-day count (August 24, 2026).

Projected enrollment for the Fundamental K-8 will expand over time, but is anticipated to be at capacity in alignment with other middle-grade fundamental programs across the district.

Creating a fundamental program on a larger campus will provide space to expand enrollment up to 348 in K-5, and 198 in middle school grade levels, making better use of the facility.

FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

RECENT FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

Since 2020, Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary has received more than \$967K in facility improvements and maintenance, including an upgraded playground and turf, painting, and chiller replacement.

ANTICIPATED FACILITIES INVESTMENTS

The Sunset Hills Elementary campus will require a \$200,000 one-time capital improvement investment to convert existing classrooms into middle-grade science classrooms.

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT- TARPON SPRINGS AREA

Total Savings: \$4.6M/year
Personnel: \$4M/year
Operational: \$590K/year

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

(FIRST READING ON 10/13/26; SECOND READING ON 11/10/26)

POLICY 2250: FUNDAMENTAL AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

The expanded K-8 fundamental school will become a District Application Program (DAP) choice for the 2027-28 school year. Tarpon Springs Elementary Fundamental will no longer be offered as a DAP beginning in 2027-28. The district's standard fundamental program admission priorities will apply, and transportation will not be provided.

POLICY 5120: ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

No amendments/changes needed as a result of this recommendation.

NEXT STEPS

RECOMMENDATION COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

• Notification:

- Original notification occurred on Thursday, September 10, 2026, with updated notification on Monday, October 5, 2026.
- Email communication regarding the recommendation has been sent to families, staff members, and school-based community partners.

ONGOING SCHOOL FAMILY/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

• Family and Community Meetings:

- Monday, September 14, 2026; 6 p.m.
- Monday, October 12, 2026; 6 p.m.